



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANTIQUE SCALE COLLECTORS

Chairman's Newsletter

Number 24. October, 1984.

CLOSING IN ON 300...AGAIN.

We're referring to members, of course, and our count currently is 291. Toward the end of 1983 we came close to the magic 300 mark, 293 to be exact, but that plateau was only temporary and we dropped back to 276 as a result of our dues billing. At this stage in our organizational life, it's fairly predictable that toward the end of each year we reach a membership high point, and then, as we enter the new year, lose a handful who seem to expediently resign by not paying their dues. Our growth then resumes, completing the cycle. However, who's to say that in 1985 we won't reach and exceed 300 and stay there? It's bound to happen sooner or later.

To learn who our newest members are and from whence they come, cast your eye over the enclosed addendum #2 to our membership directory, which you then are expected to dutifully insert in your directory binder.

AND SPEAKING OF DUES...

it's that time of year again, and your dues statement is enclosed. We don't mean to sound like a broken record, but we're constrained to remind you that your society is run by volunteers, the time we devote to ISASC should not be abused, and it is only fair and proper that you pay your dues promptly. In past years

(over)

those of us who serve you have spent an inordinate amount of time on dues collections, and we feel there's no reason for such a situation to continue. Please note that on your dues statement the amount due is \$35 but only until January 15, 1985. After that date, the amount becomes \$45, an action taken by vote of your officers after due deliberation. This new practice has not been established as a punitive measure but simply as a means of expediting prompt payment. Please save yourself \$10 and your officers trouble and woe by paying your dues immediately. Thank you.

NOT-SO-GOOD CONVENTION NEWS.

As excited as we were over the prospect of Paris as our next convention site, that's how disappointed we are to have to tell you that not only is Paris no longer the site but that there will not be an ISASC convention in 1985. The sad fact is that we are unable to secure a convention chairman for Paris or, for that matter, any city in the U.S. or Europe that otherwise would be a logical choice, and the inescapable fact is that we simply cannot sanction and plan a convention without, at the very least, a convention chairman, and preferably a convention committee.

In past years, Bill Doniger (San Francisco), Brian Brass (London), Albert Eaches (New York), Gerard Houben (Delft), Utz Schmidt (Sindelfingen), and Marty Bronstein (Chicago) aptly chaired the event, aided more often than not by helpmates. For 1985, having determined that no one was willing to manage the affair in Paris, we then considered Brussels and Los Angeles in that order, but again, our efforts to secure a chairman were futile, leaving us no alternative but to cancel the event.

Over the years our conventions have proved to be immensely popular, and it's our hope that we can resume the practice in 1986. We're amenable to site suggestions (both Brussels and Los Angeles still seem very appealing), and if any members (singly or collectively) are interested in taking on the responsibility of staging the convention in a city that is likely to command an audience, let me hear from you. It would be nice to get our conclave back on its annual track.

LET'S HEAR IT FOR BOB MILLER.

For several years Bob Miller has served as our treasurer, a job which entailed much handling of money, much detail, and much time, all of which increased considerably as our membership grew. As of this year it finally reached a point where it demanded too much of one person's time, and especially one who was holding down a full-time job. As a result, Bob asked to be relieved of a good share of his duties, although agreeing to continue as treasurer, and we had no thought of anything other than prompt compliance, recognizing how fortunate we've been to have had his services for so long. To remedy the situation, we're in the process of hiring a part-time bookkeeper/administrator who will perform the fiscal functions relinquished by Bob as well as the varied tasks that keep us going (member mailings, prospect and new member processing, literature sales, list maintenance, correspondence, etc.). The salary for this new position is budgeted at \$2,500 per year, which an analysis of our current income/expense pro forma tells us we can afford. It represents a new business plateau for ISASC, and as we rise to it we pause en route to say, "Thank you, Bob Miller."

KEEPING UP TO DATE.

At the same time you send us your dues, take a moment to look over your listing in the 1984 membership directory. If it's accurate, fine and dandy. Nothing more need be done. However, if your address, phone number, or whatever is different than shown, or if the description of your collection is out of date, use the enclosed directory update card to set the record straight. We'll be going back on press this spring with the 1985 directory, and we'll gladly update your listing according to the changes you give us. BUT REMEMBER: Only return the card to us if you want your listing changed.

PER-I-PA-TET-IC.

According to Webster, "...moving from place to place," and an apt term that describes a number of our members who seem to find their way to various parts of the globe and, whether on business or

pleasure, to still find time to pursue their avocation. None fits the description better than Jan Macho, a member from La Canada, California, who visited me in Chicago in early October.

Jan was in Chicago attending the Housewares Show (housewares being his business), and we found time of an early evening to visit, talk scales, look at photo albums, and imbibe a drink or two, all of which portended the beginnings of a new friendship. As to his peripatetic tendencies, they couldn't be more pronounced. Aside from visiting members in his own backyard (Red Meade and Joel Malter, for instance), Jan regaled me with tales of braving the wilds of Montana to visit Big Fork and member Rand Robbin (our only Montana member); of seeking out for breakfast in Milan, Italy, member Francesco Castellano (our only Italian member at the time); and, believe it or not, of making his way "down under" to visit member Stanley Weiner in Victoria, Australia. Beyond all this, Jan went on to relate that he's initiated "pen-pal" relationships with Brian Brass in London and Norbert Schwermann in Nordstemmen, West Germany. Their correspondence, need it be said, mainly has to do with...you guessed it, scales. Now there's a member who gets around and obviously derives great enjoyment from meeting and corresponding with other members worldwide. Any members who lay claim to being similarly peripatetic are invited to send me the particulars of their gadabout experiences and I'll faithfully recount them in a future Chairman's Newsletter.

SO LONG, 1984.

It's been a good year for ISASC, and I hope a good year for each and every one of you. Thanks for your continuing support and friendship, and special thanks to Michael Crawford, Tod Carley, Bob Miller, Gerard Houben, Doug Dallimer, and Marty Bronstein for their contribution of time and energies in behalf of ISASC. Margie, my partner-collector (and polisher) joins me in wishing you the best of everything for 1985 and the years that follow.

Fraternally,

